

b.) Remarks

Applicants' undersigned representative received with gratitude the facsimile copy of the Advisory Action. The Examiner's assistance in communicating with Applicants is earnestly appreciated.

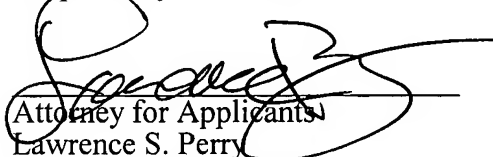
In the Advisory Action, the Examiner notes that the previous Amendment after Final would not be entered since, even if amended as proposed, claims 13 and 17 would still be rejected. In response, claim 13 is amended to delete "a nucleic acid-associated substances" as kindly suggested by the Examiner, and claim 17 is cancelled.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition.

Claims 4-8, 10, 11 and 13-15 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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